

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: Signs and Pavement Markings		NUMBER: TE-298
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Speed Determination		DATE: June 12, 2000
		SUPERSEDES: TE-209
DIRECTED TO: District Administrators	SIGNATURE: <i>G. A. Venable</i>	

The General Assembly enacted legislation (copy attached) amending Section 46.2-882 of the Code of Virginia that will allow the use of aircraft (airplanes or helicopters) for enforcement of the speed limit on the interstate highways beginning July 1, 2000.

To support this legislation, the Department has been requested by the Virginia State Police (VSP) to install pavement markings at locations determined by the VSP on the interstate highways. These pavement markings will be used with the VASCAR (visual average speed computer and recorder) units within the aircraft as a point of reference to determine the speeds of the vehicles. These pavement markings shall be installed in accordance with the attached pavement marking detail.

The Department has also been requested by the VSP to modify our existing signing "Speed Checked By Radar And Vascar" (TE-209) and to install new signing along the interstate highways indicating that aircraft are enforcing the speed limits. While the change in our existing signing was only requested for the interstate highways at the state line, it has been determined for uniformity that all existing signs need to be changed regardless of where they are located. These signs shall be in accordance with the attached sign designs.

This work should be completed no later than August 1, 2000.

cc: Mr. Charles D. Nottingham
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CHAPTER 365

An Act to amend and reenact § 46.2-882 of the Code of Virginia, relating to determination of vehicle speeds; devices used to determine vehicle speeds.

[H 164]

Approved April 3, 2000

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 46.2-882 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 46.2-882. Determining speed with various devices; certificate as to accuracy of device; arrest without warrant.

The speed of any motor vehicle may be determined by the use of (i) a laser speed ~~detection~~ *determination* device, (ii) radar, ~~or~~ (iii) a microcomputer device that is physically connected to an odometer cable and both measures and records distance traveled and elapsed time to determine the average speed of a motor vehicle, *or (iv) a microcomputer device that is located aboard an airplane or helicopter and measures and records distance traveled and elapsed time to determine the average speed of a motor vehicle being operated on highways within the Interstate System of highways as defined in § 33.1-48.* The results of such determinations shall be accepted as prima facie evidence of the speed of such motor vehicle in any court or legal proceeding where the speed of the motor vehicle is at issue.

In any court or legal proceeding in which any question arises about the calibration or accuracy of any laser speed ~~detection~~ *determination* device, radar, or microcomputer device as described in this section used to determine the speed of any motor vehicle, a certificate, or a true copy thereof, showing the calibration or accuracy of the speedometer of any vehicle or of any tuning fork employed in calibrating or testing the device, and when and by whom the calibration was made, shall be admissible as evidence of the facts therein stated. No calibration or testing of such device shall be valid for longer than six months.

The driver of any such motor vehicle may be arrested without a warrant under this section if the arresting officer is in uniform and displays his badge of authority and if the officer has observed the registration of the speed of such motor vehicle by the laser speed ~~detection~~ *determination* device, radar, or microcomputer device as described in this section, or has received a radio message from the officer who observed the speed of the motor vehicle registered by the laser speed ~~detection~~ *determination* device, radar, or microcomputer device as described in this section. However, in case of an arrest based on such a message, such radio message shall have been dispatched immediately after the speed of the motor vehicle was registered and furnished the license number or other positive identification of the vehicle and the registered speed to the arresting officer.

Law-enforcement officers shall not have the authority to use laser speed ~~detection~~ *determination* devices; *or* radar, ~~or microcomputer devices~~ as described herein in airplanes or helicopters for the purpose of determining the speed of motor vehicles.

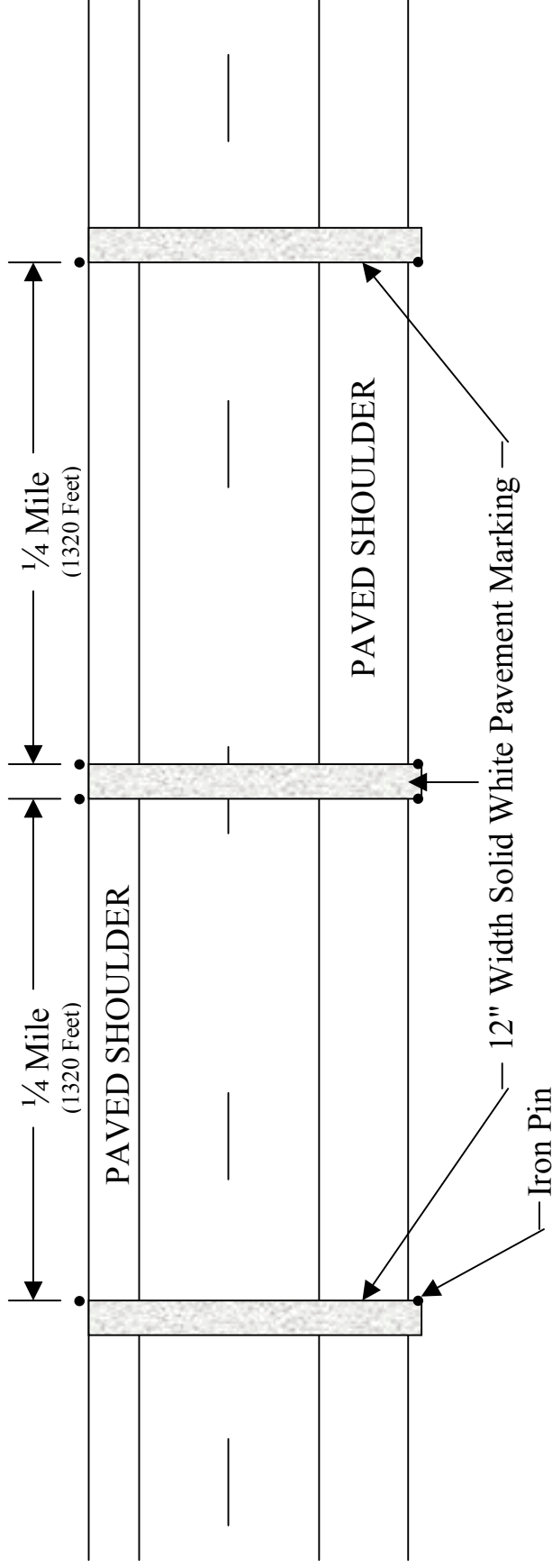
*State Police officers may use laser speed determination devices, radar, and/or microcomputer devices as described in this section. All localities may use radar; (i) counties having populations of at least 85,000 but less than 150,000 and towns within such counties; (ii) towns having populations of at least 14,000 but less than 15,000 and located within a county operating under the urban county executive form of government; and (iii) counties having the county manager form of government may use laser speed ~~detection~~ *determination* devices to measure speed. Any county, city or town located within the*

boundaries of Planning District No. 8 may use laser speed ~~detection~~ *determination* devices, radar, or both to measure speed. The Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park and the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William and towns within such counties may use microcomputer devices as described in this section.

The Division of Purchases and Supply, pursuant to § 2.1-446, shall determine the proper equipment used to determine the speed of motor vehicles and shall advise the respective law-enforcement officials of the same. Police chiefs and sheriffs shall ensure that all such equipment and devices purchased on or after July 1, 1986, meet or exceed the standards established by the Division.

~~The Department of State Police shall acquire no more than two microcomputer devices as described herein.~~ Law-enforcement officers ~~utilizing~~ *using motor vehicle-based* microcomputer devices or laser speed ~~detection~~ *determination* devices as provided for in this section shall, on request of any affected motorist, permit such motorist to observe the reading on the device. *Nothing in this section, however, shall require any law-enforcement officer to allow affected motorists to observe any reading on any microcomputer device on any airplane or helicopter.*

PAVEMENT MARKING DETAIL **AERIAL SPEED ENFORCEMENT**



NOTES

1. The location of the pavement marking at each site shall be determined with survey equipment that will provide accuracy within three to five hundredths of a foot for each pin location.
2. Pin locations shall be one foot from the paved shoulder at the locations shown above. When the paved shoulder continues to a barrier, etc., the pin shall be located as close to the barrier, etc. as possible.
3. Edge of the pavement markings shall align with the center of the iron pins on both sides of the roadway.

SPEED CHECKED BY RADAR AND OTHER ELECTRICAL DEVICES

This sign is to inform motorists that speed is checked by radar speed meters or other electrical devices and shall be erected on the Interstate and Primary Systems at or near the State boundary facing traffic entering Virginia. Sign B may be erected on the Primary System at points designated by the State Police and where R/W is inadequate for Sign C. Sign A is intended to be used only on the Primary System where R/W is inadequate for Sign B.

SHAPE	Horizontal Rectangle
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COLOR	Message and Border: Field:	White (Reflectorized) Black (Non-Reflectorized)
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SIZE		A	B	C
	Height:	30"	42"	54"
	Width:	54"	96"	126"

MESSAGE	Line 1	Capitals:	4" C	6" D	8" D
	Line 2	Capitals:	4" C	6" D	8" D
	Line 3	Capitals:	4" C	6" D	8" D

BORDER WIDTH	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	$\frac{7}{8}$ "	1"
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CORNER RADIUS	3"	5"	7"
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Notes: Vertical spacing between the message and the border is 5" for Sign A, $6\frac{5}{8}$ " for Sign B and 8" for Sign C. Vertical spacing between the lines of message is $3\frac{1}{2}$ " for Sign A, $4\frac{1}{2}$ " for Sign B and 6" for Sign C.



This sign is to inform motorists that the speed limit is enforced by aircraft and is to be installed as a deterrent to speeders on the Interstate System. Signs on the Interstate System should be located after interchanges having significant volumes. The specific interchanges shall be as determined between the Virginia State Police and the District Traffic Engineer's personnel.

SHAPE	Horizontal Rectangle
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COLOR	Message and Border:	White (Reflectorized)
	Field:	Black (Non-Reflectorized)

SIZE	Height:	54"
	Width:	90"

MESSAGE	Line 1	Capitals:	8" D
	Line 2	Capitals:	8" D
	Line 3	Capitals:	10" D

BORDER WIDTH	1"
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CORNER RADIUS	7"
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Notes: Vertical spacing between the message and the border is 7". Vertical spacing between the lines of message is 6".